

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

January 28, 1999

The Honorable John D. Dingell
United States House of Representatives
2328 Rayburn
House office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515-0101

Atten: Mr. John Ford
Re: H.R. 4080


Dear Representative Dingell,

We at the National Food Safety and Toxicology Center at Michigan State University note with interest your bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act with respect to the safety of food from foreign countries.

Of major interest is the bill's reference to prioritizing research on port of entry food safety testing techniques. Considerable effort is being put forward at Michigan State University to develop new technology which can reliably identify microbial pathogens. Of equal concern is the need to do so with technology that can deliver information with a very short response time. As you point out the issue is a primary food safety concern and also a concern relative to maintaining trade with our foreign partners. Of additional value is the relevance of such research and technology in the effort to address bioterrorism and acts of mass destruction where speed and accuracy is also of paramount importance.

We are fortunate here at the National Food Safety and Toxicology Center to be able to provide opportunity and potential in this research area.

Respectfully,


Edward C. Mather,
Deputy Director



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Toxicology
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